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[For information on tenancy reform legislation in Madras see 39: Patel, AW1 India, category 116, pp. 307-315.]

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE

428 property. For many years, however, the land continues to be in
423 the name of only one member of the extended family in the government records. The division of land, cattle and effects takes place under the supervision (and with the advice) of some of the village elders, and the terms and conditions agreed upon at this time are generally respected by the seceding units of the family. In the course of our investigations only three cases came to our notice in which inconvenience was experienced in the working of arrangements thus made. This necessitated the entry of the divi-
423 sion into legally valid documents and government records. Thus, it is clear that while government records show only 189 families as owning land, actually the number of those who possess their own fields is larger. If we do not take into account the houses in the two neighbouring hamlets, Shamirpet proper has 380 houses. Each house represents a family, elementary or joint. Out of these, 240 families have some land of their own, although from among them 60 families possess only tiny fragments. Among the other families some have only dry land, some have very little wet land, while some have highly fragmented land which often lies in many different corners of the village. This still leaves nearly 140 landless families. From these we can eliminate about 20 government officials who are not a part of the permanent population of the village; and about 10 others who have an occupation or calling which gives them a sufficient income to maintain a reasonably comfortable life according to prevailing rural standards. Eliminating these, we have some 110 families that are landless. These are in addition to an equal number of families who have insufficient or uneconomic holdings.

● 427 Those who have no land, as well as those who have very little land, are left with the alternatives of either working as whole-time agricultural labourers or of cultivating land taken on lease (*kaul*). Persons choosing the second alternative, either pay the owner of the land a fixed sum of money every year, or they give him a quarter or one-third of the produce. Absentee landlordism is almost negligible in Shamirpet, and those who own the greater part of the village land themselves want to cultivate their best fields. Thus only inferior quality land can generally be had on
425 lease. With hard work and financial investment this land can be
427 improved, but unfortunately this is impeded by several factors. If the same person continues to hold the lease for certain fields for

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a number of years, according to law he acquires semi-proprietary rights over them. The landlord does not want this to happen, and so with a view to safeguarding his own interests he leases out his land to different persons in different years. A short-term lease is naturally not conducive to land improvement, for the person cultivating the land does not risk any investment in it. If he does improve it, in one of the following years the landlord may lease it out to someone else who offers to pay more than the person who improved the land. Secondly, those who hold most of the agricultural land in the village are interested in maintaining a supply of cheap agricultural labour, without which it would be impossible for them to cultivate their extensive fields. They benefit more by cultivating their land with the help of this labour, than by leasing out their land. If they leased out all their surplus land the cheap labour supply would appreciably diminish, and for want of competition wages of those who were still available would rise. To avoid this they choose to leave some of their land uncultivated, and thus we have the paradox of having in the same village many land-hungry families and several hundred acres of uncultivated land.

The land belongs to the family, and normally the head of the family exercises control over it. On the death of the father, the land and other agricultural property—such as tools, implements and livestock—are distributed equally among the brothers. Provision is made for the marriage of unmarried daughters as well as for the maintenance of the minor sons of the deceased. In very special cases, with the consent of all the brothers, a widowed sister is also given a small share. But this is a gratuity rather than a rightful share.

The agriculturists have considerable sentiment for their land and cattle. If adversity compels them to sell some of their fields or cattle, the day when this is done becomes a day of semi-mourning for the household. The hour of transfer is indeed a sad one, and the farmer will complete the necessary formalities with a heavy heart. For several days the family atmosphere remains overcast with gloom. The womenfolk may even wail and shed tears of real grief. In the sentiments of an Indian peasant, the Earth occupies a mother's position and parting with a fragment of it is nearly tantamount to separation from the mother. It is surprising how cattle become almost members of the agriculturist's family, and how

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312 There are no other sources of water-supply. There are no streams or rivers belonging to the village. There is one at some distance, but its water is used to irrigate lands belonging to adjoining villages.

311 651 According to assessment—

Wet lands.				Dry lands.			
Rate per acre paid to zamindar.	Extent.	Revenue.		Rate per acre.	Extent.	Revenue.	
Rs. A. P.	ACRES.	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	ACRES.	Rs. A. P.	
8 14 3	4·89	44 3 9		2 1 9	11·11	23 7 2	
7 12 6	1·57	12 8 2		1 10 9	4·65	7 11 1	
7 6 6	0·86	6 6 6		1 7 3	2·91	4 3 11	
6 10 9	1·11	7 7 2		1 3 7	13·95	17 6 7	
5 8 11	8·35	48 12 4		1 0 0	3·41	3 7 7	
4 7 2	58·60	266 6 1		...	...	...	
					Total ...	442 0 4	

Inams.

Dry lands.				Wet lands.			
Rate per acre.	Extent.	Revenue.		Rate per acre.	Extent.	Revenue.	
Rs. A. P.	ACRES.	Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	ACRES.	Rs. A. P.	
2 3 1	1·06	2 3 3		10 15 0	3·46	39 5 10	
1 10 3	15·52	20 9 4		8 12 0	5·69	61 5 8	
1 6 9	7·90	11 3 8		7 10 6	4·54	34 15 2	
1 3 2	3·58	4 4 11		5 7 6	0·85	6 5 0	
					Total ...	180 4 10	
					Other lands ...	442 0 4	
			Grand total of revenue received by zamindar ...			622 5 2	

427 [311] 241 *Occupation of land.*—A very small area, 62½ cents of dry land, and 31 cents of wet, belongs to the zamindar himself and is cultivated by a tenant. Such lands are called "kanagi." The rent is Rs. 1-5-2 for the dry land and Rs. 2-11-0 for the wet land.

There are eight ryots who hold land under the zamindar, of these six cultivate their holdings, and two, of whom one is the karnam of the village, let their land to sub-tenants who pay in shares of the produce.

There are thirteen sub-tenants who own no land.

In cultivating paddy, ragi, cholam, sazzulu, and other such grains, half of the produce generally goes to the cultivator, and the other half to the zamindari tenant who lets out his land, all the straw going to the cultivator only, who supplies himself with all the necessaries for cultivation.

But in some cases the zamindari tenant (the pattadar or inamdar) himself supplies one pair of bulls, and ploughs the land, while the cultivator simply helps him in his work. In that case only one-sixth of the produce is given to the cultivator. If the

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427 zamindari tenant supplies two pairs of bulls, one-eighth goes to the cultivator.
241 In the case of sugarcane, the cultivator gets 1½ shares and the zamindari tenant only one. If the sub-tenant cultivates on contract, the cultivator must give two maunds of jaggery for every 2½ cents of land planted with sugarcane.*

Of the agricultural families, all the males cultivate some land and also work for hire. There are two females, however, who do not cultivate, of whom one lives on charity and the other by working as a coolie.

[423] Of the lands which are called "Sirkar" there is only one kind of ownership and holders of such land are called pattadars.

As regards lands designated "inam" lands there are slight differences. The inamdars pay, instead of the full rent, what are called quit-rents and road-cess.

463 There are five villagers who combine agriculture with other occupations. One is a blacksmith, the other a potter, the third prepares combs, and two others are dhobis. The sub-tenants mentioned above also do the work of coolies between harvest and sowing time.

243 *Agriculture.*—All dry lands yield only one crop per annum. Wet lands yield two crops. No land yields three crops.

For millets and pulses, the land is ploughed after a shower of rain when it is soft. Generally June or July is seed time. After a time when the plants sprout up the fields are weeded. After that four or five good showers of rain are needed. Then when the corn is ripe, it is cut and piled in bundles. The bundles are trod upon by bulls and the corn drops out.

For paddy the harvest time is November for the first crop, for which seed is sown in June or July; April and May for the second crop, for which seed is sown in December or January. When there is sufficient water the paddy fields are flooded with water and then ploughed till they become miry. Afterwards, green leaf manure (generally kanaga leaves) and animal manure are spread and well trodden in. Before planting paddy is steeped in cow-dung water in pots, which water is renewed every day. After four or five days the plants sprout up and then they are removed from the pots and placed in the prepared fields. After they are thus planted the fields are again flooded with water. But the water is allowed to remain for a day only. The next day it is let out and the fields are allowed to dry for three days when the plants are of some size. From that time onwards till the corn is ripe water is allowed to flow freely on the fields. When it is ripe it is harvested. Then it is cut, heaped in bundles, struck against a bed of rock when the grain falls out which is all collected and taken home.

249 *Sugarcane.*—The land is well ploughed, but unlike paddy is not made miry at first. Long trenches of comparatively little depth are made by means of the ploughshare. Then the field is well manured, and water is let in till it becomes miry. The sugarcane already cut in small pieces is planted in these trenches. No water is let in on that day. After an interval of three days water

[804] *[This must be taken to mean, not the Railway or Bengal maund of 82¾ lb., but a local maund of 26 lb. very nearly. The rent in jaggery is therefore nearly one ton per acre, worth about Rs. 150.—Ed.]

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311 *Land*—

	ACS.
Wet land	141·30
Dry land	304·29
Land watered by wells	52·19
Common waste	451·35
Pastures other than waste	898·14
Woods and forests	

312 There are two tanks, *Kodipalli cheruvu* and *Varadarajulu kunta*. The first is sufficiently deep though not extensive, and the water stored in the tank is sufficient for two crops. The surplus water is allowed to collect in another small pond. There are fourteen wells, all built round with stone; and one stream when in flood affords an additional water-supply.

311 *Classification of lands—According to assessment*—

651

Wet lands.		Dry lands.	
Rates.	Acres.	Rates.	Acres.
Rs. 4-0-0	18·38	Re. 1	304·29
Rs. 5, Rs. 5-8-0	32·38		
Rs. 6-0-0	21·24		
Rs. 7-0-0	20·35		
Rs. 8-0-0	7·37		
Rs. 9-0-0	1·10		

311 *Occupation of land.*—Of the dry land 109·02 acres, of the wet land 31·50 acres are cultivated by the landowners, the remainder, viz., 32·28 acres of wet land, and 272·79 acres of dry land are sublet and cultivated by tenants.

423 There are about 25 non-cultivating landowners. Some hold Government posts, about 12 are engaged in trade; there are between 30 and 40 tenants who own no land, and the agricultural workers who neither own nor rent land number men 113, women 47.

There are two kinds of ownership, inam and patta. All sirkar lands are held by pattadars. The area of holdings of inam ownership is 127·38 acres. The rest of the cultivable land is held by pattadars. Inamdars pay only quit-rent and road-cess.

There are only about half a dozen pattadars. One family alone owns 97·15 acres of wet and 143·14 acres of dry land.

427 *Rents.*—There are no cultivators who pay a money rent. Everything is paid in kind. The usual arrangement is that the cultivator himself supplies all that is necessary for cultivation, and out of the produce one-half goes to the landowner and the other to the cultivator. There are no other conditions of contract. But when sugarcane is cultivated the landowner gets only one-fourth of the produce.

The whole land revenue comes to Rs. 1,034·7-0, out of which the revenue from the inam lands alone amounts to Rs. 154-3-0.

463 Some of the villagers are engaged in trade side by side with agriculture. Others are potters, dhobis, in addition to being cultivators. Some hold Government posts. Some are contractors.

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Sandy tracts with palmyras fetch a rent of Rs. 10 per acre, without trees, Rs. 2 or 3 only; black clay Rs. 15 to 16 per acre. 427

The black clay land sells at about Rs. 350 per acre, the red sand at about Rs. 150. But the price has fallen now owing to two bad harvests. 435

Stock. 231

	By official information.	Non-official.
Working oxen	539	800 about.
Cows	412	600 „
Male buffaloes	6	14 „
Cow buffaloes	184	200 „
Young stock—buffaloes	208	250 „
Do. cows	637	650 to 700
Horses	...	...
Donkeys and mules	...	...
Sheep	58	61
Goats	225	200
Pigs	100	...

According to the census of 1900 and 1910 they were—

	1900.	1910.
Bullocks and he-buffaloes	650	545
Cows	580	412
She-buffaloes	171	184
Young stock	802	845
Sheep and goats	778	283

The straw of cholam and paddy is reserved for the summer feed of cattle; in the rainy season the green grass of the common pasture is available. Each ryot reserves one or two fields for pasture for his cattle. In days of heavy work, the bullocks are given cooked horsegram mixed with the husk of paddy, and the fine dust from the grain which is mixed with it in husking. Cotton seeds are also cooked and given for food; and oil cake, especially for milch cows. Ryots who have insufficient pasture send some of their cattle to the Agency tracts for the three months, July to September; they are charged Rs. 3 or 5 per pair.

Only about 50 per cent of the cattle-dung is used as manure, the rest is used for fuel. The average ryot applies six to eight cart-loads of dung per acre; besides the manure of the cattle kept in fields at nights. He accumulates a stock at home throughout the year and applies it at the end of the year to the fields. 241 [237]

No green manure or chemical manure is used.

Garden cultivation has been tried as an experiment with water-supply from a well, lifted by a water pump got from Bombay. Lemons and plantains are planted. The pump required some slight repairs, which were delayed for want of a mechanic near by. The garden too has not yet proved to be decidedly profitable; and all the villagers laugh at it as an innovation. [176]

Cost of cultivation.—The following is an account of the expenditure for ten acres of an average ryot, obtained from four ryots. 241 435